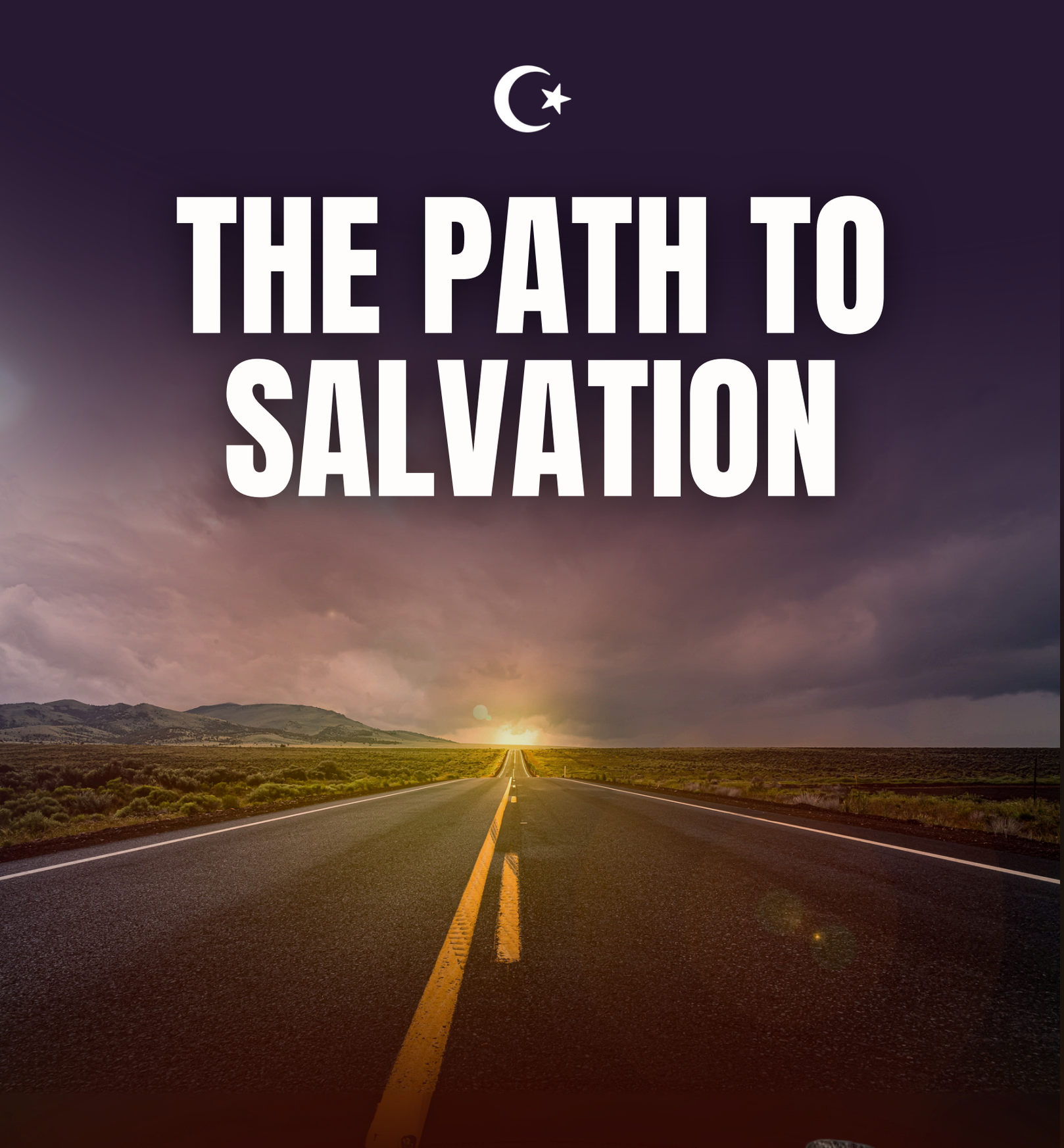
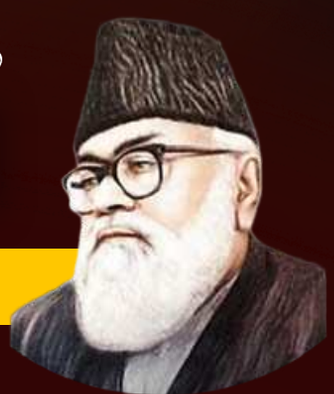
THE PATH TO SALVATION



رحمۃ اللہ علیہ

SYED MAUDUDI



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بِسۡمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحۡمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

Sama-O-Basr

لِوَجۡهِ ٱللَّهِ لَا نُرِيدُ مِنكُمۡ جَزَآءً وَلَا شُكُورًا

Only for Allah's pleasure! We neither seek reward from you nor thanks.

(Published in Mar 2024)

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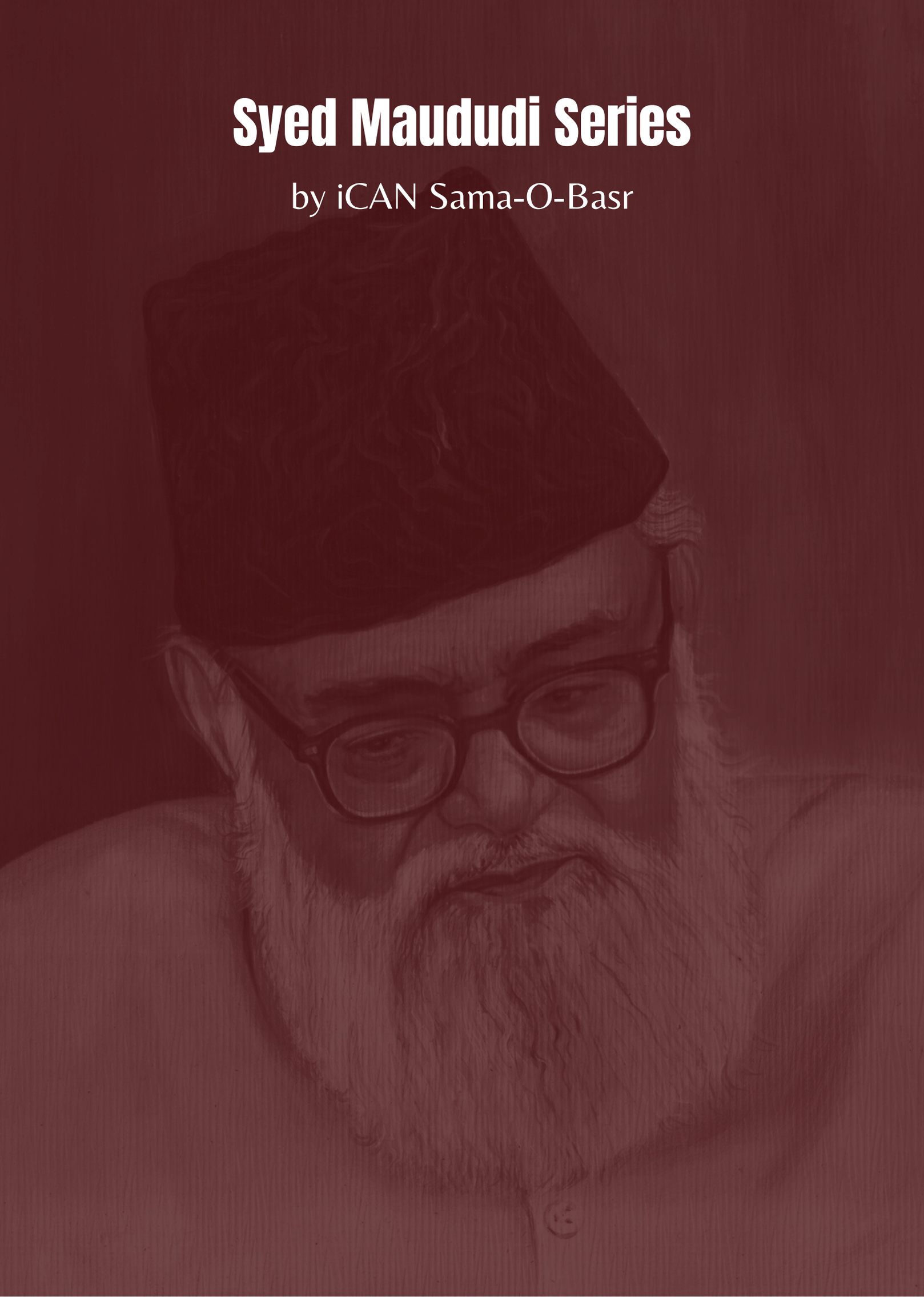
Syed Maududi Series

by iCAN Sama-O-Basr



This address was delivered in the princely state of Kapurthala (present-day Punjab) to a joint gathering of Hindus, Sikhs, and Muslims in 1940.

We invite our Hindu and Sikh brothers and sisters to read it too and hope they will find it as beneficial as the attendees of the original gathering did.

Publisher's Note

Maulana Syed Abul A'la Maududi (may Allah have mercy on him) was an extraordinary, multi-dimensional personality. Allah Almighty blessed him with profound understanding of the Deen and the unique ability to present it clearly and effectively. To convey the truth of Islam, he authored invaluable scholarly works such as Tafheem-ul-Qur'an, Al-Jihad fil Islam, The Four Basic Terms of the Qur'an, and Renewal and Revival of Deen.

Alongside his major scholarly works, Maulana also produced simple and practical literature for the common reader. Books like 'Diniyat', 'Khutbat', and 'The Islamic Way of Life and Its Basic Concepts' fulfill this need. The book "Salamati Ka Rasta" (The Path to Salvation), which you now hold, is one such timeless booklet which is based on a lecture delivered by Maulana Maududi in May 1940 in the princely state of Kapurthala before a joint gathering of Hindus, Sikhs, and Muslims. Using clear language, logical reasoning, and relatable examples, he explained the vital concept of Tawheed (Monotheism) in an accessible manner.

Today, the world is engulfed in crises—unrest, injustice, and corruption prevail everywhere. Fairness has vanished, and bloodshed continues unchecked under the shadow of power and might. The solution to these problems lies in accepting, practicing, and implementing the Oneness of Allah.

Salamati Ka Rasta has been published in hundreds of thousands of copies and remains immensely popular. We are now presenting it on fine imported paper with an attractive cover, hoping readers will appreciate this effort.

Abdul Hafeez Ahmad
Managing Director, Islamic Publications

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About the book

Overview of the Book

Salamti Ka Rasta (The Road to Peace) by Maulana Abul A'la Maududi is a profound and rational discourse on the foundations of peace, justice, and human responsibility. Although first delivered in 1940, it reads as if Maulana is speaking directly to the readers of our own time. Its appeal to reason and morality remains timeless.

The book argues that true peace cannot be achieved through man-made laws, which are inherently biased and self-serving. Instead, peace and justice require submission to the law of One True God—the only lawgiver free from selfishness, ignorance, and partiality. Belief in His existence, as Maulana demonstrates through numerous logical examples, is the most rational conclusion.

Objectives of the book

This book serves to main goals:

- **Strengthen the faith of Muslims** by presenting clear, logical arguments for belief in God, His oneness and His sovereignty.
- **Invite non-Muslims** to examine the rational foundation of Islamic belief and its universal principles for justice and harmony.

Style and Approach

- **Plain, Rational Argumentation:** The book employs simple, everyday examples—such as shops, factories, and machines—to make complex ideas accessible to everyone, enabling readers to use their own experiences as a basis for assessing the claim of God's existence.

- **Gradual, Step-by-Step Reasoning:** Each argument builds upon the previous one, creating a logical progression that leads the reader from basic observations to profound truths.

Summary of the Content

1. **From Chaos to Order—Who Made It Possible?** The author begins with vivid analogies: no one would believe a shop or factory could run without an owner, yet some claim the universe operates without a Creator. Maulana refutes this by pointing to the intricate order of the cosmos and the marvel of human life, especially the process of creation in the womb.
2. **Monotheism and the Logic of One Sovereign:** Just as no institution can function under two heads, the universe cannot operate under multiple gods. The perfect harmony of natural laws proves the existence of one supreme authority—God. If this vast system were not governed by *Al-'Aleem* (the All-Knowing), who understands precisely what every element needs to exist and thrive, and by *Al-Qadeer* (the All-Powerful), who has complete control over everything, then the intricate order of the world—the stars, galaxies, and all creation—could never survive.
3. **The Real Cause of Man's Ruin:** Human misery stems from living against reality—rebelling against God's sovereignty and adopting man-made laws. This rebellion leads to chaos, injustice, and moral decay.
4. **Why Is There Injustice?** Man-made laws favor certain classes, nations, and races, resulting in oppression. Only God's law, which treats all humans equally and judges by character and deeds, can establish justice.
5. **How Can Peace Be Established?** Peace requires accountability. If individuals, classes, or nations believe they are beyond punishment, they become tyrannical. Belief in God and the Day of Judgment is

essential to restrain injustice.

6. **A Doubt Addressed:** Why does God allow rebellion? The author explains through the analogy of a king testing his officer by loosening control. Allah SWT grants humans freedom as a test, but ultimate accountability is inevitable.
7. **The Final Call:** Every person must choose – loyalty to the true King or rebellion. The author declares his own choice for loyalty and invites readers to reflect and decide.

Key Features

- **Logical and relatable examples** (shops, factories, machines, trains).
- **Universal appeal**—addressed to all humanity, not just Muslims.
- **Moral urgency**—calls for aligning life with reality to achieve peace.

Reading Time:

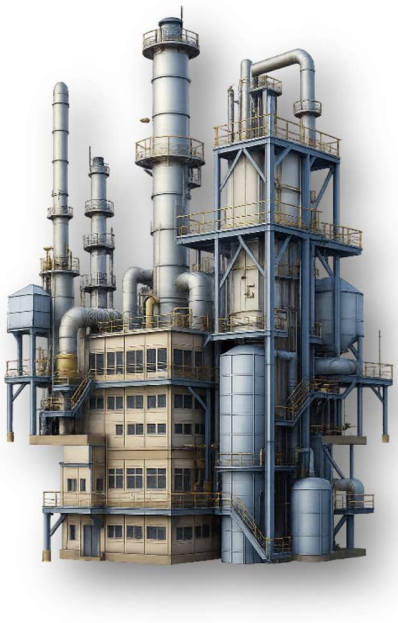
At the average reading speed of 130 words per minute, this book would require around 1 hour of silent reading time.

Editor (iCAN Sama-O-Basr)

From Chaos to Order—Who Made It Possible?

Friends! If someone were to tell you that there is a shop in the market with no shopkeeper, yet it runs by itself, goods arrive there on their own, and they are sold to customers automatically—would you believe him? Would you accept that goods can appear in a shop without anyone bringing them? That they can be sold without anyone selling them? That the shop can remain safe from theft and robbery without anyone guarding it?

Ask yourself honestly—could you ever accept such a claim? Could any sane person ever imagine that such a shop could exist in this world [without a human involved in some capacity either as an owner, or decision-maker, or designer, and so on]?



Suppose someone tells you that in this city there is a factory with no owner, no engineer, no mechanic. The entire factory came into existence by itself. All the machines came into being at their own. All the parts fitted themselves into place. The machines are running by themselves, and strange and wonderful products are coming out of them automatically[1].

Tell me honestly—if someone said this to you, wouldn't you stare at him in astonishment? Wouldn't you suspect that

[1] Some readers might think that with advancements in technology and AI, many factories and plants now operate with no human involvement. However, a deeper look reveals that automation does not negate the point being made here. Even an automated factory begins with human decision-making—someone must

his mind has gone astray? Could anyone other than a madman utter such absurd nonsense?

Leave aside distant examples. Take this electric bulb glowing before you—could you believe, merely on someone's word, that the light inside it appears by itself? Look at this chair placed in front of you—would you accept, even if the greatest philosopher insisted, that it came into existence on its own? These clothes you are wearing—would you agree, even if the most learned scholar of the age claimed, that no one made them and they simply formed by themselves? And these houses standing before you—if all the professors of the world's universities joined together to convince you that no one built them, that they just appeared on their own—would their persuasion ever make you believe such nonsense?

These few examples I have given are of things you see day and night. Now think: if your reason cannot accept that even a small shop could exist without someone establishing it, or run without someone managing it—if you are unwilling to believe that even a tiny factory could come into being without a maker or operate without someone running it—then how can you believe that this vast factory of earth and sky, which is functioning before your eyes, came into existence on its own? In this factory, the moon, the sun, and the great planets move like the parts of a clock.

From the seas, vapors rise; from vapors, clouds form; winds carry those clouds to every corner of the earth; then, at the right time, they are cooled and turned back into water; then that water falls to the ground as drops of rain [either frozen or freely flowing]; then, by that rain, from the belly of dead earth spring forth lush trees, grains of many kinds, fruits of varied

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decide to establish it, determine what equipment it should have, where raw materials will come from, and how the supply chain will function. These decisions do not happen by themselves. Similarly, planning where the products will go and ensuring they reach the market requires foresight; no organization simply piles up goods without knowing whether they can be sold—unless it is preparing for destruction. In short, even if a factory operates autonomously due to automation, it still reflects deliberate planning and design. Rather than contradicting the argument, this reality invites deeper reflection, and the truth becomes clear to anyone willing to think.

colors, and flowers of countless forms.

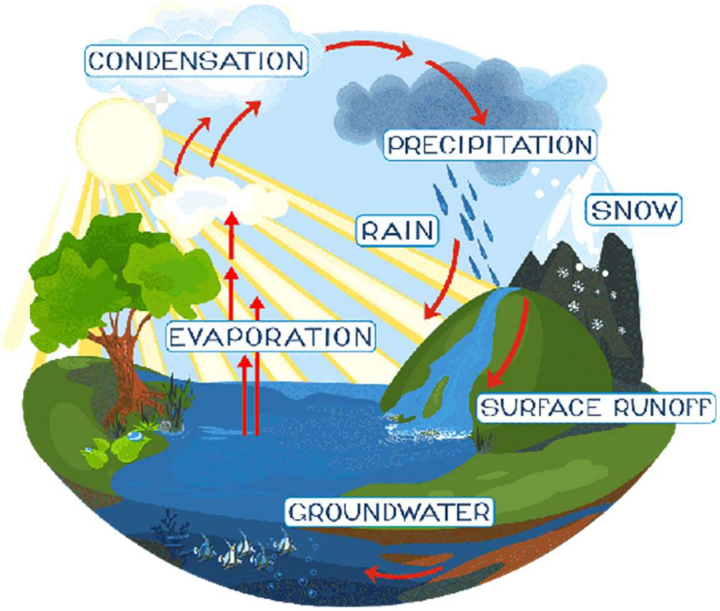
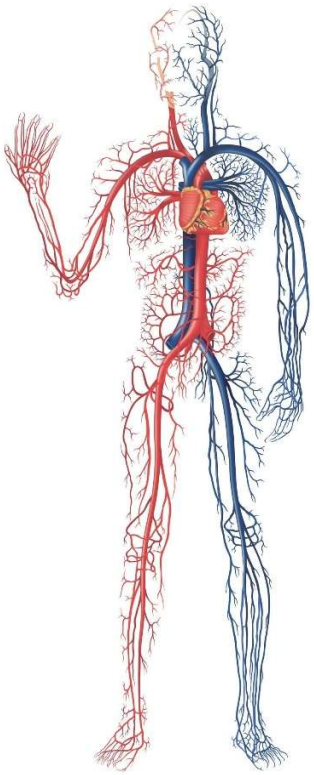


Figure: Water Cycle

How can you believe that all this happened without a Creator and continues without a Controller? If someone were to say that a small chair, a yard of cloth, or a little wall came into being by itself, you would immediately conclude that his mind is deranged. Then how can there be any doubt about the madness of the one who claims that the earth made itself, animals appeared on their own, and a **marvel like man** came into existence by itself without any designer?



When scientists analyzed the components that make up the human body, they found that it consists of iron, carbon, sulfur, phosphorus, calcium, salt, a few gases, and some other substances—whose total value does not exceed a few rupees. Take these substances in exactly the

same proportions as they exist in the human body and mix them in any way you like—you will never be able to produce a human being. Then how can your reason accept that from these lifeless materials there could come into existence a living, seeing, hearing, speaking, walking, thinking human being—the same human who builds airplanes and invents radios—without the wisdom of a skilled Creator?

Have you ever reflected on how a human being is formed in the tiny factory of the mother's womb? The father's ingenuity has no role in it, nor does the mother's wisdom contribute to it.

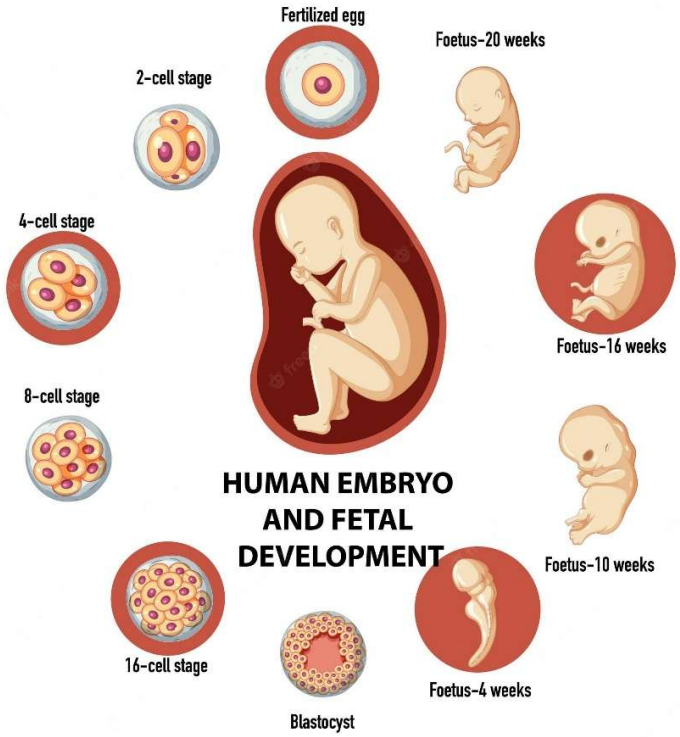


Figure: Embryo and Fetal Development

In a small pouch, two tiny cells—so small that they cannot even be seen without a microscope—somehow unite. From that moment, nourishment begins to reach them from the mother's blood. The same iron, sulfur, phosphorus, and other substances I mentioned earlier gather there in precise proportions and weights, forming a lump of flesh.

Oxygen – 52kg
Carbon – 14.4kg
Hydrogen – 8kg
Nitrogen – 2.4kg
Calcium – 1.12kg
Phosphorus – 880g
Sulphur – 200g
Potassium – 200g
Sodium – 120g
Chlorine – 120g
Magnesium – 40g
Iron – 4.8g
Fluorine – 3.0g
Zinc – 2.6g
Strontium – 0.37g
Iodine – 0.0128g
Copper – 0.08g
Manganese – 0.0136g
Molybdenum – 0.0104g

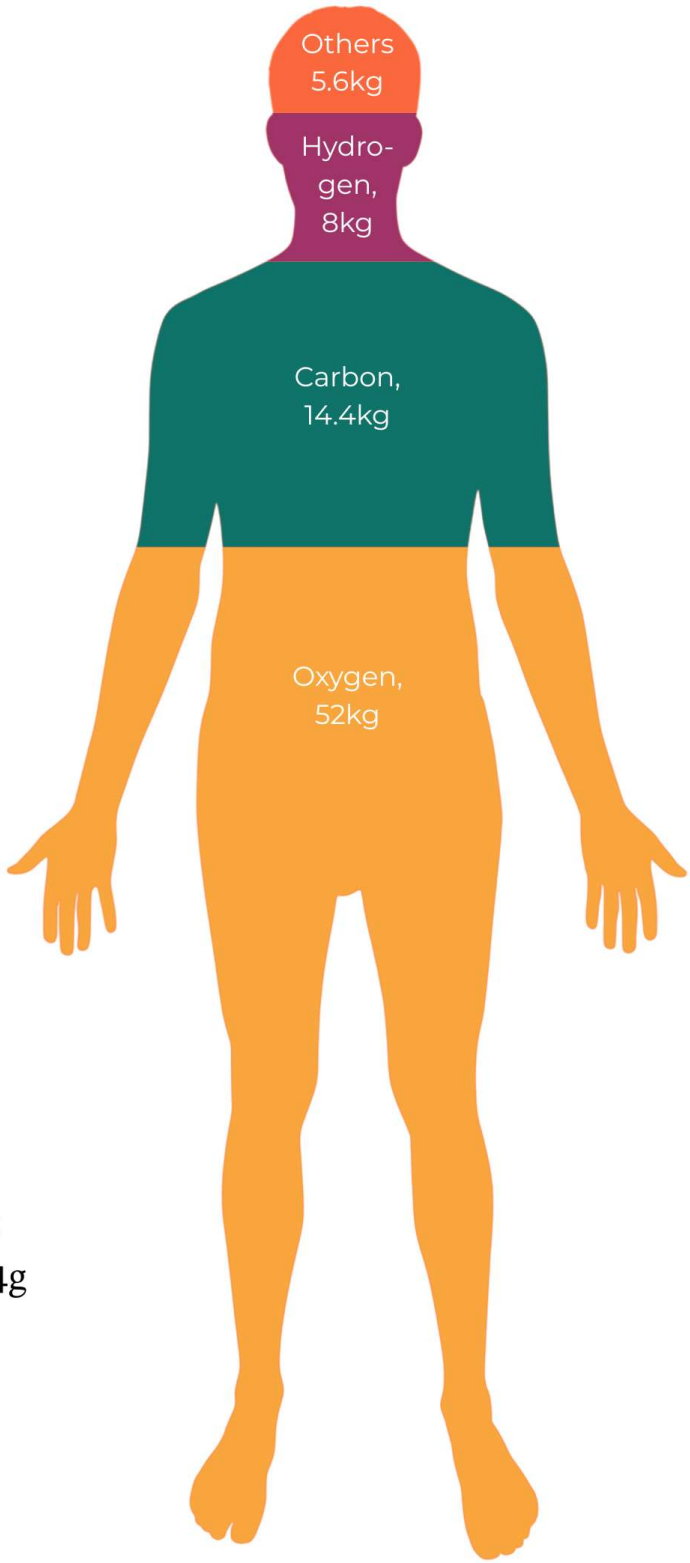


Figure: Various elements in human body

Then, in that lump, eyes appear exactly where eyes should be, ears where ears should be, the brain where the brain ought to be, and the heart where the heart belongs. Bones take their place, flesh takes its place—every single part fits perfectly in its proper position. Then life enters it: the power to see, to hear, to taste, to smell, to speak, to think, to understand—and countless other faculties fill it.

And when the human being is fully formed, that same small factory—the mother's womb—where he was being made for nine months, exerts its force and pushes him out into the world. And the world stands amazed to see that from this factory, millions of human beings are produced in the same manner every day, yet each one is unique: a different face, a different color, a different voice, different strengths and abilities, different temperaments and thoughts, different morals and qualities. Even two real brothers born from the same womb are not identical.

This is a marvel that leaves the mind utterly astonished. And if, after witnessing this wonder, someone says that this happens without a God who possesses supreme wisdom, supreme power, supreme knowledge, and unmatched perfection—or that it could happen without Him—then surely that person's mind is not sound. To consider such a person intelligent is an insult to reason. At least, I do not consider such a person worthy of any discussion on a rational matter.

Monotheism

Does Having Two Ultimate Decision-Makers Improve Organizational Productivity and Effectiveness?

Now, let us go a step further. Every one of you knows by reason that no

work—whether small or large—can ever run in an orderly and systematic way unless there is one person responsible for it. Have you ever heard of a school with two headmasters, a department with two directors, an army with two commanders-in-chief, or a kingdom with two rulers or kings? And if such a thing were to happen, do you think the administration could remain sound even for a single day? In your own life, you experience that wherever a task is left under the responsibility of more than one person, there is severe mismanagement, disputes arise, and in the end, the joint venture breaks apart. Wherever you see order, regularity, smoothness, and harmony in the world, there is always one authority at work—one being vested with power and control, with the reins of affairs in his hands. Without that, you cannot even imagine proper administration.

Order in the heavens

This is such a simple truth that no person with even a little sense would hesitate to accept it. Keeping this in mind, now look at the world around you. This vast universe spread out before you, these millions of planets revolving above you, this earth on which you live, this moon that rises at night, this sun that rises every day, Venus, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, and countless other stars spinning like balls—observe the strict order in their movements! Have you ever seen night arrive before its appointed time? Has day ever dawned earlier than scheduled? Has the moon ever collided with the earth? Has the sun ever deviated from its path? Have you ever seen or heard of any star shifting even a hair's breadth from its orbit?

These millions of stars—some of which are millions of times larger than our earth, and some thousands of times bigger than the sun—are all bound together like the parts of a clock, moving in a mighty system, following precise calculations, each at its fixed speed along its fixed path. Not even the slightest change occurs in their speed [unless Allah wills as it would happen closer to the day of judgement]. Not even a hair's breadth can they deviate from their paths [till that appointed time comes]. The relationships established among them—if even the slightest balance were disturbed for a

single moment, the entire system of the universe would collapse. Just as trains collide when they go off track, so too would the planets crash into one another.

Comment from the editor:
Let's reflect on our status in the universe.

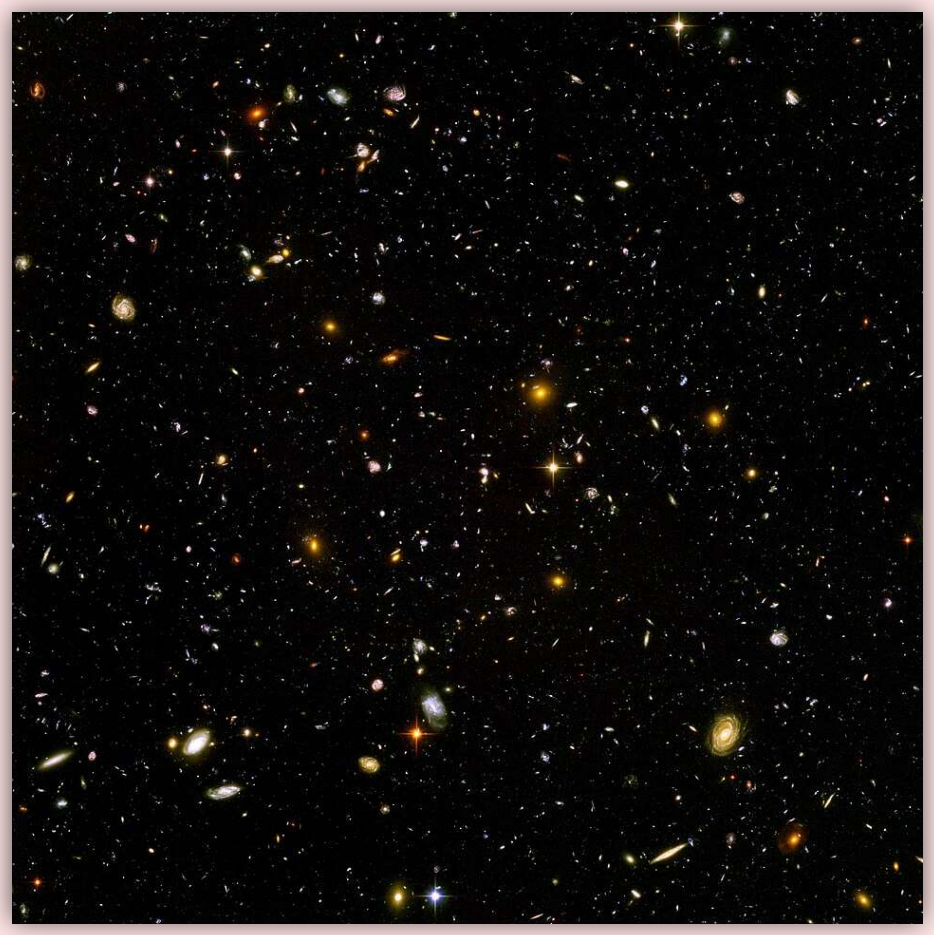


Figure: A small region of space showing a large number of galaxies

A galaxy is a vast system containing millions or even billions of stars. Our Earth belongs to one such galaxy—the Milky Way—among countless others scattered across the universe. The Creator has fashioned far more than just the Earth and humankind, yet we often fall into the illusion that everything revolves around us—or ought to.

Allah SWT asks us in the Quran:

ءَأَنتُمۡ أَشَدُّ خَلۡقًا أَمِ ٱلسَّمَآءُ بَنَىٰهَا

Which is harder to create: you or the sky? He built it!

Surah 79. An-Naziat, Ayah 27

The Arabic word ***Bina*** means to build something where each part is connected to the next. A building is called *Bina* because one brick interlocks with another. Allah (SWT) uses this concept to illustrate that the sky is a seamless construction, where every part fits perfectly into the next.

In Arabic, *As-Sama* does not only refer to the sky but also to everything above it. In these verses, Allah asks: *Which is more difficult to create – the vast heavens with their stars and galaxies, or the human being?* From a human perspective, the heavens appear far more complex. Both, however, share a similarity: they began from a concentrated substance and then expanded. And both will one day come to an end.

The Qur'an affirms that creating the heavens is greater than creating man. This demonstrates the immense power of Allah and serves as proof that if He can create something so vast and intricate, He can certainly recreate something lesser. For the believer, reflecting on this truth—especially in moments of solitude, such as rising for prayer in the depths of the night—brings a profound realization: the universe he contemplates is far greater than himself. This awareness should humble him deeply and fill his heart with awe before the Creator.

Order in the earth and your own self

That is the order in the heavens. Now look at the earth and at yourself. This entire drama of life that you see playing out on this ball of clay exists only because of fixed laws. The earth's gravity holds everything within its sphere.

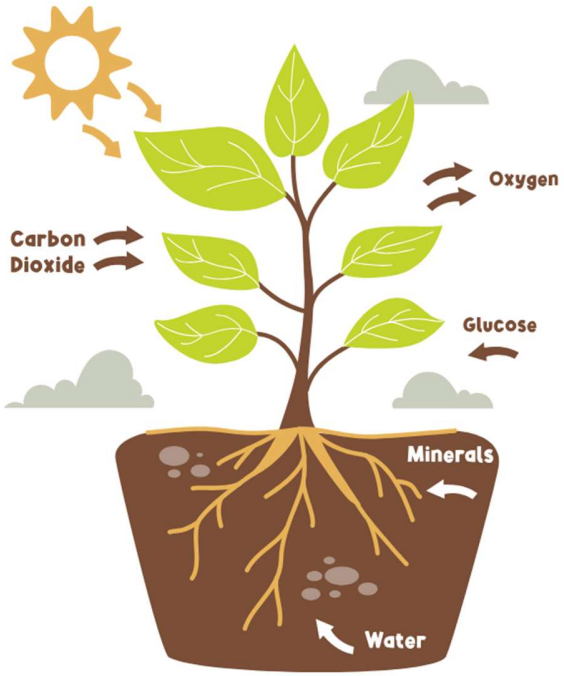
If it were to loosen its grip for even a second, the whole system would scatter. Every component of this great factory works according to a set of rules, and that set of rule never changes. The air obeys its law; water is bound by its law; light submits to the law laid down for it; heat and cold are slaves to the regulations assigned to them. Soil, stone, metals, electricity, steam, trees, animals—none of them has the power to exceed its limits, alter its properties, or abandon the task entrusted to it.

And then, while each element remains within its own limits and adheres to its own law, all the parts of this great factory work together in harmony.

Interconnection between the forces of nature

Everything that happens in this world happens because all these forces and elements cooperate with one another. Take the simple example of a seed that you plant in the soil—it can never grow into a tree unless the combined forces of earth and sky join in its nourishment.

The earth feeds it from its treasures; the sun gives it heat according to its need; water supplies what it asks for; air provides what it demands. The nights bring it coolness and dew; the days give it warmth and lead it toward ripening. In this way, for months and years, all these forces work together in perfect order to nurture and sustain it—until finally it becomes a tree and bears fruit.



All the crops on which your life depends are produced only because countless different forces work together in agreement. In fact, you

yourself are alive only because all the powers of earth and sky are united in sustaining you.

If even a single element—say, air—were to withdraw from this cooperative arrangement, you would perish. If water refused to work in harmony with air and heat, not a single drop of rain could fall upon you. If soil ceased to cooperate with water, your gardens would dry up, your crops would never ripen, and your houses could never be built. If a matchstick refused to produce fire when struck, your stoves would go cold and all your factories would come to a sudden halt. If iron declined to interact with fire, you could not make trains or automobiles—or even a simple knife. In short, this entire world in which you live exists only because all the departments of this vast kingdom work together in perfect compliance, and not a single agent in any department dares to neglect its duty or refuse to cooperate according to the prescribed law.

The reason for this perfect order in the universe

Is there anything I have said that is false or contrary to fact? Perhaps none of you would call it false. Well then, if this is true, tell me: what is the reason behind this magnificent order, this astonishing regularity, this perfect harmony, this complete coordination among the countless things and forces of earth and sky? For millions of years, this universe has continued in this way. For countless ages, trees have been growing on this earth, animals have been born, and human beings have lived here since time unknown. Never has the moon fallen upon the earth, nor has the earth collided with the sun. Never has there been any error in the alternation of night and day. Never has the department of air quarreled with the department of water; never has water turned against soil; never has heat broken its bond with fire. Why is it that all the provinces, all the departments, all the agents and workers of this vast kingdom continue to obey law and order so faithfully? Why is there no conflict among them? Why does no chaos arise? What is it that binds them all into one system? Ask your heart for the answer.

Does it not testify that there is one God who is the King of this entire universe? That one command governs all? That there is One whose mighty power has bound everything to His law? If there were even two gods ruling this universe, this system could never run with such perfect order.

Even the administration of a small school cannot tolerate two headmasters. Then how could this vast kingdom of earth and sky ever function under the rule of two gods?

So the reality is not merely that this world could not have come into existence without a Creator – it is also true that it was created by One alone. And the truth is not only that the management of this world cannot run without a ruler – it is also a fact that the ruler is One.

The perfect order of this system clearly declares that no one but One holds the reins of power here. The strict adherence to law speaks aloud that in this kingdom no command runs except that of One. The firmness of the law bears witness that the sovereignty of One King extends from earth to sky. The moon, the sun, and the planets are under His control. The earth, with all that it contains, is obedient to Him. The air is His servant, water His subject; rivers and mountains are under His command; trees and animals submit to Him; and the life and death of man are in His hands. His mighty grip has bound all things with full strength, and none has the power to enforce its own will within His dominion. In truth, within this complete system, there is no room for more than one ruler.

The very nature of organization demands that no one share even the slightest portion of authority. The ruler must be one alone, and all others must be subjects. For if even the smallest degree of sovereignty were placed in another's hands, it would mean disorder and chaos.

The need for the Rabb to be Al-Aleem, The All Knowning

To govern, not only power is required, but also knowledge—such vast vision that one can see the entire universe at once and issue commands with full understanding of its needs. If, besides the Lord of the Worlds, there were other small gods who lacked this universal vision yet possessed authority over some part of the world or some matter, then the entire system of earth and sky would collapse. Even with a simple machine, you know that if someone unfamiliar with it is given the right to interfere, he will ruin it. Therefore, reason concludes—and the flawless functioning of the kingdom of earth and sky bears witness—that in this dominion, not even a particle of royal authority is shared by anyone other than the One God.

Slaves can never be partners with their master

This is not just a matter of fact—the truth is that in God's sovereignty, there is no reason for anyone other than God Himself to have authority. Those whom He has created with His own power, who are His creatures, whose very existence depends on His grace, who cannot remain in being for even a moment on their own—how could any of them ever have the status to share in His divinity?

Have you ever seen a servant become a partner in his master's ownership? Does your reason accept that a master would make his slave equal to himself? Would any one of you make one of your employees a partner in your property or your authority? When you reflect on this, your heart will testify that in God's kingdom, no servant has any right to exercise independent sovereignty. Such a thing is not only contrary to fact, not only against practice and nature—it is against truth itself.

The Real Cause of Man's Ruin

Friends! These are the fundamental truths upon which the entire system of this world operates. You are not separate from this world; rather, you live within it as one of its parts. Therefore, these truths are just as essential for your life as they are for the life of the universe.

The widespread evil

Today, this question has become a troubling puzzle for every one of you—and for all mankind: Why has peace and tranquility departed from human life? Why are calamities descending upon us day after day? Why has the entire mechanism of our lives gone awry? Why are nations clashing with nations? Why is there strife between countries? Why has man become a wolf to his fellow man? Millions of human beings are being destroyed in wars; businesses worth billions are being ruined; towns and villages are being laid waste. The strong devour the weak, and the rich plunder the poor. There is tyranny in government, injustice in courts, corruption in wealth, arrogance in power, treachery in friendship, dishonesty in trust, and truth has vanished from morals. Man has lost faith in man. Religion is disappearing, and irreligion is spreading. The children of Adam are divided into countless factions, and every faction considers it a virtue to harm the other by deceit, oppression, and dishonesty in every possible way.

What is the reason for all these evils? In God's kingdom, wherever we look, we see nothing but peace. There is peace among the stars, peace in the air, peace in the water, and peace among the trees and animals. The entire creation runs in perfect order; there is not a trace of chaos or disorder anywhere. Then why is it that only human life has been deprived of this blessing? This is a great question that has deeply troubled people, but I want to give you its answer with complete certainty.

The Real Cause: Our Delusion and Disconnection from Truth and Reality

My brief answer is this: Man has built his life against truth and reality. That is why he suffers, and until he reshapes his life in accordance with reality,

he will never find peace.

If you mistake the **door of a moving train** for the door of your house and casually step out as if you were entering your courtyard, your misunderstanding will not turn the train's door into your home's door, nor will the ground where you fall become your courtyard. Your assumption will not change reality in the least. When you step out of a fast-moving train, the result that must follow will surely occur—whether or not you admit after breaking your leg and splitting your head that your assumption was wrong.

In exactly the same way, if you think that this world has no God, or you make yourself a god, or you accept someone other than God as divine, your thinking or believing will never change reality. God will remain God. His mighty kingdom—in which you live merely as a subject—will remain entirely under His control. But because of this misunderstanding, the way of life you adopt will bring upon you severe consequences. Even if, after suffering, you continue to believe that your way of life was right, the bitter outcome will not change.

Your acknowledgement of Allah SWT and living on the principles He set is for your benefit:

Now, refresh in your memory what I have already explained. The Lord of the Worlds has not become God because someone made Him so; He does not depend on your acknowledgment to be God. Whether you accept Him or not, He is God by Himself. His sovereignty stands by its own power. He created you and this world Himself. This earth, this moon and sun, and this entire universe are subject to His command. All the forces at work in the universe are under His control. Everything on which your life depends is in His grasp; even your own existence is in His hands. If you do not acknowledge Him, it remains a fact. If you shut your eyes to Him, it remains a fact. If you imagine something else, it still remains a fact. None of these attitudes can alter reality in the least. The only difference is this: if you accept this reality and assume the position that truly belongs to you within it, your life will be set right—you will find peace, security, and contentment, and everything in your life will run smoothly. But if you adopt any position contrary to reality, the result will be the same as stepping out of a moving train thinking its door is your house door. The injury will be yours; your leg will break, your head will split, and the pain will be yours. Reality will remain exactly as it was.

Your true position in God's kingdom

You may ask: according to this reality, what is our correct position? Let me

explain it in a few words. If you are paying wages to a servant and maintaining him, then tell me—what is the servant's real position? Is it not that he should perform his service, obey your commands, work according to your will, and never exceed the limits of servitude? What else can a servant's duty be except to serve? If you are an officer and someone is under you, what is the subordinate's role? Is it not that he should remain a subordinate and not try to hold on to the reigns of authority? If you own a property, what would you desire regarding it? Is it not that your will should prevail in it—that whatever you wish should happen there, and not a leaf should stir against your will? If a kingship is imposed over you and all powers rest in the king's hands, then in the presence of such sovereignty, what can your position be? Is it not that you should accept to live as a loyal subject and never step outside obedience to the royal law? If, while living within the king's dominion, you claim kingship for yourself or acknowledge someone else's kingship and follow his command, then you are a rebel—and you know well what treatment rebels receive.

From these examples, you can easily understand what your true position is in God's kingdom. He created you. Naturally, your only duty is to follow the will of your Creator. He sustains you and provides for you from His treasures; you live on His provisions. Your position is nothing more than that of His servant. He is the Officer over you and the entire world; in His authority, your position can only be that of a subordinate. This earth and sky are His property; in this property, His will prevails—and it must prevail. You have no right to enforce your own will here. If you try to impose your will, you will suffer defeat. His sovereignty in this kingdom stands by its own power; all departments of earth and sky are under His control. Whether you are pleased or displeased, you are, in any case, His subject. No human being—great or small—has any position other than that of a subject.

His law alone is the law in this kingdom, and His command alone is the command. No one among the subjects has the right to claim,

"I am His Majesty," or "His Highness," or "I am the dictator and supreme authority." Nor does any person, parliament, assembly, or council have the authority to make its own law in place of God's law and then tell God's subjects to follow it.

Nor does any human government have the right to disregard God's command and impose its own authority over God's servants, telling them to obey its laws. It is not permissible for any individual or group to abandon allegiance to the true King and accept servitude to false claimants of kingship. To forsake the law of the real Sovereign and accept the laws of human legislators, to turn away from the true Ruler and obey these pretended governments—every one of these actions amounts to rebellion. To claim royal authority and to accept such a claim are both acts of revolt against the King, and both will inevitably face punishment—whether sooner or later.

Every single hair on your head is in God's grasp; whenever He wills, He can seize and drag you. In this vast kingdom of earth and sky, no one has the power to escape. You cannot flee from Him to any refuge. Even if you crumble into dust and every particle of your body scatters, even if you burn and your ashes are blown away in the wind, even if you are swept into water and become food for fish or dissolve into the ocean—God will summon you from every place. The air is His servant, the earth His handmaid. Water and its creatures are all under His command. At a single gesture, they will seize you from every side. And then He will summon each one of you and ask: On what grounds did you, being My subject, claim the right to kingship? From where did you bring the authority to enforce your own commands in My dominion? Who were you to establish your own laws in My kingdom? How did you consent, being My servant, to serve others? How did you obey others' orders while being My servant, take sustenance from Me yet regard others as your providers and sustainers, accept the slavery of others while being My slave, acknowledge the sovereignty of others while living under

My sovereignty, consider others' laws as law, and obey their decrees? How did this rebellion become lawful for you? Tell me—who among you has an answer to this charge? Which lawyer will be able to devise a legal trick to save you there? And what recommendation do you trust that will rescue you from the punishment for this crime of rebellion?

The Cause of Oppression

Friends! This is not only a question of truth—it is also a question of whether any human being can ever be fit for kingship, lawmaking, or governance in God's dominion. As I have already said, even with a simple machine, you know that if an unskilled person who does not understand its mechanism tries to operate it, he will ruin it. Just let an inexperienced person drive a car, and you will immediately see the result of such folly.

Now think: if a mere machine made of iron cannot be operated without proper knowledge, then what about man—whose psychology is extremely complex, whose life encompasses countless aspects, each filled with millions of intricacies? How can those who do not even fully understand themselves, let alone others, manage this intricate machinery of human life? When such unskilled people become lawmakers, and such ignorant ones take upon themselves the task of driving human life, can the outcome be any different from what happens when an untrained person drives a car?

This is precisely why, wherever man-made laws are accepted instead of God's law, and wherever humans disregard God's command and impose their own, and others obey them—there is no peace anywhere, no tranquility for man, and the mechanism of human life never runs smoothly. Bloodshed and violence are rampant; oppression and injustice prevail; looting and

plundering are widespread. Man is sucking the blood of his fellow man; morals are being destroyed; health is being ruined; and all the powers that God granted to man are being used not for his benefit but for his ruin and destruction. This perpetual hell that man has built for himself in this very world with his own hands has no other cause than this: he, like a child playing out of fancy, has tried to operate a machine whose parts he does not even understand. The One who made this machine knows its secrets; He alone is familiar with its nature; He knows exactly how it can run properly. If man would abandon his folly, admit his ignorance, and begin to follow the law laid down by the Maker of this machine, then what has gone wrong can be set right again. Otherwise, there is no possible solution to these miseries.

Why Is There Injustice?

Misconstrued definition of humanity

There is another reason as well. If you look more deeply, you will see that apart from ignorance, there is another cause for the corruption in our lives. A little sense is enough to understand that "humanity" does not mean one person, one family, or one nation. All the people of the world are, after all, human beings. Every human being has the right to live; all are entitled to have their needs fulfilled; all deserve peace, justice, honor, and dignity. If human prosperity means anything, it cannot mean the prosperity of one person, one family, or one nation—it must mean the prosperity of all mankind. If one is prosperous while ten are miserable, you cannot say that humanity is prosperous. If "welfare" means anything, it must mean the welfare of all human beings—not of one class or one nation.[2] The welfare of

[2] Also read part 1 of the book *Tehreek Aur Karkun* as well as *Mas'ala-e-Qaumiyyat* by Maulana Maududi.

one and the ruin of ten cannot be called human welfare.

To eliminate injustice, the law should be made by The One free of any biases

If you understand this correctly, then consider: how can human welfare and prosperity be achieved? In my view, there is only one way—that the law governing human life should be made by One who regards all human beings equally, who assigns rights to all with justice, who has no personal interest, no attachment to any family, class, country, or nation. All must obey One who, in giving commands, neither errs through ignorance nor exploits authority for selfish desires, nor is biased—favouring one and opposing another, leaning toward one and turning away from another. Only in this way can justice be established; only then can all human beings, all nations, all classes, and all groups receive their rightful due. And This Alone Can End Oppression.

This is the only way by which injustice can be eradicated.

Now I ask: is there any human being in this world who can be so impartial, so free from bias, so devoid of self-interest, and so completely above human weaknesses? Perhaps none of you would dare to answer this question in the affirmative. This quality belongs only to God; no one else possesses it. No matter how noble-hearted a person may be, he still has personal interests, certain attachments, greater ties with some and lesser with others, love for some and none for others, affinity with some and estrangement from others. No human being can be free from these weaknesses. This is why, wherever man-made laws are accepted instead of God's law, and obedience is given to human commands instead of God's command, there is always some form of oppression and injustice.

Manifestations of injustice when human beings think they are sovereign

Look at these royal families who, by sheer force, have secured a privileged

position. They have reserved for themselves honor, luxury, income, rights, and powers that others do not have. They stand above the law. No claim can be filed against them. Whatever they do, there is no recourse against them. No court can issue a summons in their name. The world sees their mistakes, yet it is said—and people accept—that the king is infallible. The world sees that they are ordinary human beings like everyone else, yet they sit above all as if they were gods, while people stand before them with folded hands, heads bowed, fearful and trembling, as though their sustenance, their life, and their death were in these rulers' hands. They extract money from their subjects by every means, good or bad, and squander it lavishly on their palaces, their vehicles, their pleasures, and their amusements. Their dogs eat bread that the hard-working subjects cannot afford. Is this justice? Can such a system ever be ordained by One who regards the rights and interests of all human beings as equal?

Look at these Brahmins and spiritual leaders, these nobles and aristocrats, these landlords and feudal lords, these moneylenders and financiers—each of these classes considers itself superior to ordinary human beings. The laws they have influenced and shaped grant them rights that common people do not enjoy. They are deemed pure while others are impure; they are considered noble while others are base; they are high while others are low. They exist to plunder, while others exist to be plundered. People's lives, wealth, honor, and dignity are sacrificed to satisfy their selfish desires. Can such regulations ever be the work of a just lawgiver? Do they not clearly reveal selfishness and partiality?

Look at these ruling nations that, by the strength of their power, have enslaved other nations. Which of their laws or regulations is free from selfishness? They call themselves superior beings—indeed, in reality, they regard only themselves as truly human. In their view, the people of weaker nations are either not human at all, or if they are, then of the lowest rank. In every respect, they keep themselves above others and consider it their right to sacrifice the interests of others for their own purposes. Every law and

regulation shaped under their influence bears this mark.

Biasness in man-made laws

These few examples I have given merely as an indication; there is no room here for detail. I only wish to impress upon your mind that wherever man has made laws, injustice has inevitably occurred. Some people have been granted far more than their rightful share, while the rights of others have not only been trampled upon but they have even been degraded from the rank of humanity without hesitation. The reason lies in man's weakness: whenever he sits to decide a matter, his heart and mind are dominated by concern for his own self, his family, his race, his class, or his nation. For the rights and interests of others, he does not possess the same sympathetic outlook that he has for his own. Tell me, is there any remedy for this injustice other than to cast all human-made laws into the river and accept the law of God—a law under which there is no distinction between one human being and another, except on the basis of character, deeds, and merits, not on the basis of race, class, or nationality?

How can peace be established?

Importance of the concept of accountability for bringing peace

Friends! There is another aspect of this matter that I cannot overlook. You know that the only thing that keeps a person under control is a sense of responsibility. If someone becomes convinced that he can do whatever he wishes, that no one will question him, and that there is no power above him capable of punishing him, then you can understand that he will become like an unbridled camel.

This principle applies not only to an individual but equally to a family, a class, a nation, and all humanity. When a family feels that no one can hold it accountable, it becomes uncontrollable. When a class becomes fearless of responsibility and answerability, it does not hesitate to oppress others. Likewise, when a nation or an empire finds itself so powerful that it fears no evil consequence of its excesses, it begins to tear apart and devour weaker nations like wolves in the jungle attacking helpless sheep. One major cause of the disorder in the world is this very attitude. Until man acknowledges a power higher than himself, and until he firmly believes that there is One above him to whom he must answer for his deeds and who has the power to punish him, it is impossible to close the door of oppression and establish true peace.

Who is most suited to this role?

Now tell me, what power can fulfill this role other than the Lord of the Universe? Among human beings, no such authority can exist, because whichever group you grant this position to, there is always the risk that it will itself become unbridled. There is the danger that it will turn into a Pharaoh above all Pharaohs, and that, acting with selfishness and partiality, it will raise some people and crush others.

Europe tried to solve this problem by creating the League of Nations[3], but very soon it became an assembly of white nations and a plaything in the hands of a few powerful states, which began committing injustices against weaker nations.

After this experience, no doubt remains that it is impossible for any power from within humanity to emerge that can instill fear of accountability in every individual, every nation, and every empire. Such a power must

[3] The League of Nations was established on January 10, 1920, after World War I to promote cooperation among nations and prevent future wars. However, lacking authority and unity, it failed in its mission—within just 19 years, the world plunged into World War II. It was succeeded by the creation of the United Nations in 1945, with representatives from 50 nations. Yet, the UN often steps into the shadow of its failed predecessor. Despite its numerous resolutions, many global conflicts remain unresolved.

necessarily lie outside and above the human sphere—and that can only be the power of God Almighty.

If we desire our own well-being, there is no alternative but to believe in God, submit ourselves to His sovereignty like obedient subjects, and live in this world with the conviction that the King knows all our deeds, open and hidden, and that one day we will have to account for the record of our entire life in His court. This is the only way we can become truly noble and peaceful human beings.

Why does Allah SWT allow humans to go astray if they wish to

Before I conclude my address, I feel it necessary to clear up a doubt that may have arisen in the minds of many of you. You might be wondering: if God's sovereignty is so absolute that everything—from a speck of dust to the moon and the sun—is under His control, and if man is merely a subject in His kingdom, then how is it possible for man to rebel against His rule and declare his own sovereignty, imposing his own laws upon God's subjects? Why does God not seize his hand and punish him immediately?

I will answer this question in a few brief words.

The reality is that man's position in God's kingdom is somewhat like that of an officer whom a king appoints over a district in his realm. The country belongs to the king, the subjects are his, and all the railways, telegraphs, armies, and other powers remain in the king's hands. The king's authority surrounds that district from all sides so completely that the officer is utterly powerless in comparison. If the king wished, he could compel him so strictly

that he would not dare to deviate even a hair's breadth from his command. But the king wants to test the officer's intelligence, character, and ability. Therefore, he loosens his grip just enough that the officer does not feel any higher authority over him. Now, if the officer is wise, loyal, conscientious, and faithful, he will continue to regard himself as a servant and subject despite this loosened control. He will govern the district according to the king's law and use the powers granted to him in accordance with the king's will. Through this loyal conduct, his competence is proven, and the king, finding him worthy of higher ranks, grants him promotion after promotion.

But if that officer is foolish, disloyal, and wicked, and the people living in that district are ignorant and naive, then finding the king's grip loosened, he becomes inclined to rebellion. The thought of independence fills his mind. He begins to regard himself as the master of the district and starts ruling arrogantly. The ignorant subjects, seeing only that he pays salaries, controls the police, holds the courts, possesses the prison shackles and the gallows, and has the power to shape or ruin their fate, accept his tyrannical rule.

The king observes the conduct of both—the blind subjects and the rebellious officer. If he wished, he could seize them immediately and punish them so severely that they would come to their senses. But he desires to test them fully, so he grants them respite with great patience and forbearance, allowing all the corruption within them to come out completely. His power is so overwhelming that he has no fear that this officer will ever grow strong enough to snatch his throne, nor does he worry that these rebellious and treacherous people will escape his grasp. Therefore, he feels no need to rush judgment. He may grant them years, even centuries of respite, until they have displayed every ounce of their wickedness and nothing remains hidden. Then, one day, he sends his punishment upon them—and at that moment, no strategy can save them from his wrath.

Friends! You, I, and all those officers appointed by God are undergoing this very test. Our intelligence, our character, our sense of duty, and our loyalty are being severely tried.

Now each one of us must decide for himself whether he wishes to be a loyal officer or subject of the true King, or a traitor. As for me, I have already made my decision to remain loyal to my God, and I am an enemy to anyone who rebels against Him. You are free to make your own choice – whether to take this path or that.

On one side are the harms and benefits that these rebellious servants of God can inflict, and on the other side are the harms and benefits that God Himself can bring upon you. You may choose whichever of the two you prefer.

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